IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Cancelled)

2 (Previously Amended). A peptide according to claim 25, wherein the hydrophobic amino acid residue is selected from the group of residues consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Phe, Tyr, Nle and Nva.

3 (Previously Amended). A peptide according to claim 25(C), wherein the peptide is elongated by additional amino acid residues at the N-terminal.

4 (Previously Amended). A peptide according to claim 3, wherein the additional amino acid residues constitute sequences of the human CRP.

5 (Previously Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 25(D), wherein acyl is a radical R-X-CO-, wherein R is substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl and X is a covalent bond, O, NH, or NHCO.

6 (Previously Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 5, wherein R is optionally substituted alkanoyl or aroyl.

7 (Previously Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 6, wherein the acyl radical is selected from octanoyl, monomethoxysuccinyl, carbobenzoxy (benzyl-O-CO-), acetylaminocaproyl, Fmoc (fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), naphthyl-NH-CO- and adamantyl-NH-CO.

8 (Previously Amended). A peptide according to claim 25, selected from the group of sequences consisting of:

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (residues 89-96 of SEQ ID NO:3)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Ser-Ile (SEQ ID NO:8)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Phe-Ile (SEQ ID NO:9)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:13)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:10)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Phe-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:11)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:12)

MeOSuc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

MeOSuc-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14)

Octanoyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

Acetylaminocaproyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

AdamantylNH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

α-Naphthyl-NH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

CBz-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

CBz-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14)

Fmoc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

wherein CBz is carbobenzoxy, MeOSuc is monomethoxysuccinyl and Fmoc is 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl.

9 (Previously Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a CRP-derived peptide according to claim 25, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10-11 (Cancelled)

12 (Previously Amended). A method for the treatment of a chronic inflammatory condition which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a peptide according to claim 25.

13 (Previously Amended). A method according to claim 12, wherein the chronic inflammatory condition is rheumatoid arthritis, pulmonary emphysema or cystic fibrosis.

14-24 (Cancelled)

25 (Currently Amended). An isolated peptide capable of inhibiting *in vitro* the enzymatic activity of human

Leukocyte Elastase (hLE) and/or of human Cathepsin G (hCG), said peptide being:

(A) a core peptide identical to positions 89-96 of the sequence of human C-reactive protein (CRP) of the formula:

Val_{89}-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile_{96} (SEQ ID NO:3);

(B) a modification of (A) in which one or more of the following additional modifications is optionally made:

(i) substitution of Ile_{96} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(ii) substitution of His_{95} by Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe, or Tyr, an N-alkyl derivative of His, Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr, or a D-form of His, Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr;

(iii) substitution of Val_{94} by Ala, His or Phe, or a D-form of Val, Ala, His or Phe;

(iv) substitution of Ala_{92} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(v) substitution of Val_{91} by Ala or Gly;

(vi) substitution of Thr_{90} by Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Ala, Val or Pro; and

(vii) substitution of Val_{89} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

with the proviso that the residue at 89 is not Leu, the residue at 90 is not Glu, the residue at 91 is not Ala or Val, the

residue at 92 is not Ile, the residue at 94 is not Val, the residue at 95 is not Ser, and the residue at 96 is not Ile, all at the same time;

(C) a peptide obtained by elongation of (A) or (B) at the N- and/or C-terminal, but not including the entire CRP; or

(D) an amide of the C-terminal of (A), (B), or (C), and/or an N-acyl derivative of (A), (B), or (C).